

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ATLANTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088492

FOL GEORGETOWN 0665 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BOGOTA
BRASILIA CARACAS MEXICO KINGSTON BRIDGETOWN PORT OF SPAIN
APRIL 29, 1974 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, GY, VE

SUBJECT: GOG ATTITUDE TOWARDS MEMBERSHIP IN OAS

REF: GEORGETOWN 0662

SUMMARY: IN AFTERMATH OF MEXICO AND WASHINGTON MFM'S AND ADMISSION
TO IDB, GOG DOES NOT INTEND TO PRESS FOR ADMISSION TO OAS, ACCORDING
TO FONMIN RAMPHAL. HE SAID GOG WILL INSTEAD WORK TOWARDS ACCEPTANCE
IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF OAS SUCH AS PAHO, SCCN, CIAP, ETC., IN
HOPE THAT EVENTUALLY FULL OAS MEMBERSHIP WILL BE ALMOST AUTOMATIC.
HE DECLINED OFFER BY MEXICAN FONMIN RABASA TO ACT AS INTER-
MEDIARY WITH VENEZUELA ON OAS MEMBERSHIP ISSUE. HE WILL MEET
WITH VENEZUELAN FONMIN IN CARACAS DURING JUNE. THERE WAS HINT
THAT GOG MAY ALSO WISH TO HOLD OFF TO SEE WHETHER CANADA COMES
IN AND CUBA RETURNS TO OAS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MY INITIAL CONVERSATION ON APRIL 27 WITH FONMIN RAMPHAL
FOLLOWING HIS NEARLY
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THREE-MONTH ABSENCE FROM GUYANA, HE DEALTH

MAINLY WITH HIS IMPRESSIONS OF WASHINGTON MFM (SEE REFTEL).
WITHOUT PROMPTING, HOWEVER, HE ALSO DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR, AND
GOG ATTITUDE TOWARDS, MEMBERSHIP IN OAS.

2. HE GOT ONTO THE SUBJECT BY RELATING THAT AT SOME POINT DURING
MFM'S IN MEXICO AND WASHINGTON, MEXICAN FONMIN RABASA HAD
OFFERED TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY WITH VENEZUELAN FONMIN
TO SEE IF VENEZUELA COULD BE PERSUADED TO WITHDRAW ITS OBJECTION
TO ADMISSION OF GUYANA. RAMPHAL SAID HE HAD DECLINED THE OFFER,
AND OBSERVED THAT GOG IS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF DEALING DIRECTLY
WITH VENEZUELA ON THIS OR ANY OTHER ISSUE. AS A MATTER OF FACT,
HE WENT ON, HE WILL BE GOING TO CARACAS IN JUNE TO MEET WITH THE
NEW VENEZUELAN FONMIN. HE DID NOT SAY THAT OAS MEMBERSHIP WOULD
BE DISCUSSED, BUT HE DID SAY THAT HE AND PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM
CONSIDER THIS A HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT STEP IN RELATIONS WITH
VENEZUELA.

3. RAMPHAL WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GOG DOES NOT INTEND TO PRESS
FOR EARLY ADMISSION TO THE OAS. THEY ARE PLEASED WITH PROGRESS
REPRESENTED BY PARTICIPATION IN TWO MFM'S AND BY ADMISSION TO
IDB. GOG FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO PUSH
VENEZUELAN'S AT THIS STAGE, AND THAT GOG INTERESTS WILL BE BETTER
SERVED BY SHOWING A DISPOSITION TO BECOME INVOLVED AND ACCEPTED
IN SOME OF THE WORKING SUBSIDIARIES OF THE OAS, SUCH AS PAHO,
SCCN, AND POSSIBLY CIAP. HE REASONED THAT GOG ACTIVITY AND
MEMBERSHIP IN THESE ORGANS WILL BE RELATIVELY MORE DIGESTIBLE
FOR VENEZUELA AND THAT EVENTUALLY GUYANA WILL REACH POINT WHERE
PASSAGE FROM WHAT AMOUNTS TO DE FACTO TO DE JURE MEMBERSHIP IN
OAS WILL BE VIRTUALLY AUTOMATIC. MEANWHILE, BOTH THROUGH GOG
PARTICIPATION IN NEW MFM FORUM AND THROUGH MORE ACTIVE BILATERAL
RELATIONS WITH GUYANA'S NEIGHBORS, HE HOPES TO BUILD STRONG
CASE FOR GUYANA'S FULL ACCEPTANCE IN OAS.

4. COMMENT: IN RELATING HIS IMPRESSIONS OF MEXICO AND
WASHINGTON MEETINGS, RAMPHAL ALLUDED WITH EVIDENT APPROBATION TO
JAMAICAN MINISTER OF STATE THOMPSON'S PITCH THAT OAS MUST INCLUDE
BOTH CANADA AND CUBA. THIS LEFT ME WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT
PERHAPS ANOTHER REASON FOR GUYANA'S GRADUALIST APPROACH TO OAS
MEMBERSHIP IS A DESIRE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN THESE TWO CASES
BEFORE MAKING A FINAL COMMITMENT. GUYANA WOULD OBVIOUSLY WANT TO
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AVOID HAVING ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH CUBA BECOME AN ISSUE WITHIN THE
OAS, AS HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF JAMAICA, ALTHOUGH DEVELOPMENTS
SINCE THEN HAVE CHANGED THE PICTURE. AS REGARDS CANADA,
GUYANA WOULD NATURALLY FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE HAVING ANOTHER
STRONG ENGLISH-SPEAKING MEMBER TO COUNTER-BALANCE THE PRESENT
LATIN PREPONDERANCE. KREBS UNQUOTE RUSH

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